

# WEATHER.

Fair today; tomorrow mostly cloudy; little change in temperature. Temperature for twenty-two hours ended at 10 p.m. last night: Highest, 43; lowest, 32.9. Full report on page 8.

# The Sunday Star.

"From Press to Home Within the Hour"  
The Star's carrier system covers every city block and the regular edition is delivered to Washington homes as fast as the papers are printed.

No. 926.—No. 28,727.

Entered as second-class matter post office Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1922.—FIFTY-EIGHT PAGES.

FIVE CENTS.

## SENATE BATTLE SEEN OVER BORAH PROPOSAL FOR ECONOMIC PARLEY

### Capper Assures His Support of Move.

### G. O. P. LEADERS FROWN ON PLAN

### Democrats Promise Hearty Backing of Measure.

A battle royal over the Borah proposal for an international conference to solve the economic problems of Europe and the world looms in the Senate.

The proposal, contained in an amendment to the Navy appropriation bill, offered by Senator Borah of Idaho, its proponents insist, will be adopted, notwithstanding opposition which has cropped up against it in administration quarters and among some of the old "irreconcilables" who stood shoulder to shoulder with Senator Borah in his fight against the Versailles treaty.

Developments in regard to the Borah proposal which stood out last night were:

#### Capper Promises Support.

1. Declaration of support for the proposed economic conference by Senator Capper of Kansas, republic head of the farm bloc of the Senate.

2. Assertion of opposition to the plan by Senator Watson of Indiana, following a conference with the President. Senator Watson declared reservation must be adopted before he would consider supporting it.

3. A break in the ranks of the "irreconcilables" with Senator Hiram Johnson of California, republican, issuing a statement denouncing the Borah plan as in line with the policy of Woodrow Wilson.

4. Indications that the democrats will rally to the support of the plan.

#### Borah Estate Plan.

5. A declaration by Senator Borah that the time has come when camouflage should be laid aside, and that the people should realize that the administration is already "in Europe" through the participation of its representatives at meetings of the reparations commission, and at the Lausanne conference, and through the retention in Germany of American troops.

Senator Capper, in a brief discussion of the proposed economic conference in Washington, sounded the sentiment that is back of the desire to settle economic conditions in Europe—the desire for a Europe that will be able to buy the surplus products of the United States, both farm and manufacturing. He said:

#### Points to Need of Markets.

"I am strong for it. Our people are in urgent need of markets abroad and they want Europe's economic problems settled quickly so that Europe's buying power soon will be restored. I see nothing in Senator Borah's proposal that would tie us to entangling European alliances or to the league of nations and I am sure our people will support it."

Taking the stand that the proposed economic conference would inevitably lead to the involvement of the United States in European affairs and that the United States should look first to its own interests, Senator Johnson voiced his strong opposition to the Borah plan.

#### Must Consider Debts.

"An economic parley of necessity must consider not only present conditions in Europe, but the debts due to us, and, of course, the reparations due from Germany. Were we to invite the interested nations to discuss these subjects in order to arrive at a mental reservation to take no part in the ultimate solution, we would be guilty of a species of bad faith, of which America has never been guilty and which Americans never can tolerate."

"If we bring the nations of the earth here to Washington for a conference, we'll dump into America's lap the economic ills of Europe and the reparations muddle. If, officially, we sit down with the other nations who meet at our invitation and reach an understanding and agreement, we are in honor bound to carry out and execute that agreement, and the very instant we undertake to carry out an agreement to enforce reparations, that instant we abandon the traditional policy of America. We become a part of the European scheme of things and we enter upon that course from which we have so recently escaped and which our people so overwhelmingly repudiated."

#### "Will Involve Politics."

"We cannot officially with the nations of Europe enter into agreements for the solution of Europe's present economic ills without being involved politically. It's true we have troops on the Rhine. The administration claims they are there under the armistice. They ought to be brought home. It's equally true we have observers in Europe. But having these troops on the Rhine, even as I think, wrongfully under existing conditions, and our observers in Europe, is a vastly different thing from begging."

## ENTHUSIASM IS LACKING OVER CONFERENCE IDEA

### High Officials Fail to See Assurances of Helpfulness in an "International Poker Game."

While no official expression of opinion is to be had from members of the administration as to Senator Borah's proposal for an international economic conference, to be called by the President of the United States, there is in high administration circles a noticeable lack of enthusiasm for the project. Men in the confidence of the President express inability to see assurances of good results from such a gathering, and they are able to see where a great deal of harm might be done.

There is a disposition to regard an international conference of the kind suggested as very much in the nature of an international poker game. While poker may be the great American indoor sport, the trouble with the game proposed is that Uncle Sam, figuratively speaking, would be putting in real money with only I. O. U.'s in prospect in exchange for any chips he might have left at the game's end. The European nations, of course, would welcome a chance to play what they haven't got against what Uncle Sam possesses, but there is difficulty here in understanding why the United States should be expected to participate in play of that sort.

#### Europe Urges Conference.

Almost constant suggestions from Europe for an international economic conference have had frequent echoes on this side of the Atlantic, but American support of the proposal, it is believed here, results more from generous impulse than from actual understanding of what would be involved.

#### These Facts Already Known.

It is regarded as little less than absurd that an international conference should be convened for the purpose of telling European nations these facts, which they already know. And when the facts had been told, there no longer would be any excuse for further American participation in the conference.

#### U. S. Position Unchanged.

If Senator Borah and his colleagues who favor the calling of such a conference will first amend the law created—(Continued on Page 3, Column 2.)

involved. In the first place, European agitation for such a conference always has in mind that the debts owed this country by Europe, as well as the reparations owed by Germany to the allies, would constitute a part of the stake for which the game would be played. If the debts owed America were not to go into the pot, Europe would have little, if any, desire to play.

Now, not only are the American people unwilling that the money owed this country by Europe should be dumped into a common pool along with reparations claims, but as the law stands today it would be impossible to make these debts the subject of negotiations at an international conference. All the American delegates to such a conference would be able to say on the subject of debts would be: "We are forbidden by Congress to cancel any part of the indebtedness; we are forbidden to accept an interest rate lower than 4½ per cent, and we are forbidden to extend the time of payment beyond twenty-five years."

#### U. S. Position Unchanged.

It is regarded as little less than absurd that an international conference should be convened for the purpose of telling European nations these facts, which they already know. And when the facts had been told, there no longer would be any excuse for further American participation in the conference.

#### U. S. Position Unchanged.

If Senator Borah and his colleagues who favor the calling of such a conference will first amend the law created—(Continued on Page 3, Column 2.)



HIS CHRISTMAS DREAM.

## SEEKING PLEDGES IN LAUSANNE LULL

### Big Four Trying to Find Solution Outside Conference Halls.

### FIRM ON CAPITULATIONS

### Turks Determined to Abolish Consular Courts—U. S. and Allies' Attitude Unchanged.

By the Associated Press. LAUSANNE, December 23.—The near-eastern conference has taken a brief Christmas recess until Tuesday afternoon, and there is general hope among the delegates that the two-day respite will aid the conference leaders in finding paths of wisdom and progress.

Christmas week has set the conference back rather than forward; even the problem of the straits, which seemed on the verge of a satisfactory settlement, was placed in peril. A new ultimatum from the Turks—that if they could not obtain their desires on several points, especially with reference to a non-aggression pact in favor of Turkey, they would not accept international control for the passage of warships—has prevented settlement of the straits question.

#### Four Seeking Solution.

The Lausanne big four—Curzon, Barrère, Garroni and Ismet Pasha—are trying to find a solution outside the conference halls. The entente statesmen have said to Turkey: "We will give you your guarantee of non-aggression, but such a pact will obligate the powers to be responsible that you will not be attacked; therefore, give our international commission jurisdiction not only over the passage of ships through the straits, but also over the status of demilitarized zones. Responsibility implies authority to prevent disaster."

But the Turks say that foreign supervision over Turkish zones would violate Turkey's sovereignty. Lord Curzon, who will sit his plumed podium at Lausanne, instead of in London, may win Ismet Pasha over to a compromise during the Christmas holidays.

#### Other Great Difficulties.

There are other great conference difficulties—capitulations and customs tariffs, and the latter may never be settled at Lausanne. With respect to capitulations, which the Turks desire to be rid of, the allies and the United States are taking a firm attitude. They lack confidence in the Turkish judiciary and would be loath to have their citizens tried in purely Turkish courts. The issue is sharp and clear and a solution of this vital problem has not yet appeared.

The tariff question is vital to the United States, which, like Turkey, desires to make a general Taricco-American treaty of commerce. The Turks seem unchangeably determined to abolish the foreign consular courts, and assert that their judges, some of whom are graduates of American law schools, are unbiased and capable.

#### 11 KILLED, 90 HURT.

### Trainload of Spanish Soldiers Dashes Down Hill Into Freight.

#### By the Associated Press.

VALENCE, Spain, December 23.—Eleven members of the Viscaya regiment were killed, including the commander, Col. Canabate, and more than ninety others injured when a military train out of control ran down a steep grade to a disastrous collision near Onteniente station, Valencia province, today.

#### The Regiment Was on Its Way Home.

The regiment was on its way home from maneuvers when the train bearing it was stopped on an upgrade because the signals were against it. As the train halted the brakes failed to work and the train started backward down the slope. It quickly picked up great speed and dashed into a freight train standing on a switch near the station. Two cars of the military train were completely wrecked.

## Cuno, in Greeting, Urges Sacrifices For World Peace

#### By the Associated Press.

BERLIN, December 23.—Chancellor Cuno, in a Christmas greeting to the German nation, says there is hardly another people on earth that longs more for peace and justice, both internal and external, than Germany. He implores Germany to end her quarrels, honor the past, believe in the future and be united in the face of imminent serious conditions, which "shall bring of duty peace to the world." The Chancellor concludes:

"We shall do our utmost to spare the world a great disaster and achieve world peace. We are resolved to make heavy sacrifices in goods and treasure for the sake of Germany's liberty, equality of rights and peaceful collaboration with other nations."

#### CUNO.

Up to last night a total of \$7,338.46 had been received for the Christmas Opportunities, leaving \$5,117.54 still needed. The several amounts required to close the remaining ten opportunities are as follows: No. 1, \$212; No. 2, \$358.50; No. 4, \$411; No. 6, \$667; No. 7, \$272.71; No. 8, \$350; No. 9, \$324.50; No. 11, \$350.50; No. 12, \$424.50; and No. 13, \$355.50.

There is \$100 available which, according to the donor, is to be distributed between the two opportunities which are the farthest behind at the close of the appeal.

#### Office Open Tomorrow.

The office of the Associated Charities at 923 H street northwest will be open on Christmas morning up to noon to receive contributions for the opportunities, and any mail that may bring gifts for the remaining ten families to be cared for. It is earnestly hoped that many who have not yet responded will write a check today and mail it so that it may be received at the office tomorrow morning.

An effort will be made to report the total receipts up to the last minute before going to press Monday afternoon.

Contributions may be sent to the Associated Charities, John Joy Edson, 923 H street northwest, or will be received at the office of the Star. The workers of the Associated Charities in their desire to see the fourteen Christmas Opportunities fully subscribed have not overlooked other equally meritorious families. In fact, they have been busy acting as almoners for numerous clubs and groups of people who have wanted to extend help to the form of useful presents, supplying families with things which would ordinarily be regarded as necessities, but which look like absolute luxuries to those who have accustomed themselves to go without.

#### Sends Cash and Toys.

A business man, well known among his friends for his generous giving, although he always wishes his name withheld, has sent \$125 to be used for Christmas gifts. Many of the gifts for needy families will be in the form of three huge boxes of toys, dolls and games, for the boys, dolls for the girls, besides games, mouth organs, accordions, dishes and other things that make glad the heart of children.

Other useful presents have been sent by various groups, and others have rendered valuable volunteer service in preparing the gifts for Christmas delivery. The Sunday school of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church has given furniture to a home where the parents are dead and the grandmother is trying to keep the children together, also two quilts of milk a day to another family for at least a month.

The government workers in L-M building are furnishing bedding and household linen to one family and \$45 to be distributed among ten old ladies and one old man. A girls' club at Western High School has helped in tying up toys and has also contributed money. The Junior department of Foundry M. E. Church is giving clothing, toys, money and milk to fourteen children between the ages of nine and twelve.

The pupils of the Chevy Chase School are giving money and clothing through the Associated Charities. The Business Woman's Council has given cash to be spent by a family for its own Christmas dinner. Troop 70 of the Boy Scouts is giving an all-the-year-around Christmas by contributing \$2.50.

#### (Continued on Page 3, Column 4.)

## HAVE YET TO CLOSE 10 OPPORTUNITIES

### With \$7,338.46 Received, Associated Charities Hopes to Obtain \$5,717.54.

### MANY HAVE RESPONDED

### Varying Gifts Typify How Christmas Spirit Has Touched Hearts of Donors to Unfortunates.

Up to last night a total of \$7,338.46 had been received for the Christmas Opportunities, leaving \$5,117.54 still needed. The several amounts required to close the remaining ten opportunities are as follows: No. 1, \$212; No. 2, \$358.50; No. 4, \$411; No. 6, \$667; No. 7, \$272.71; No. 8, \$350; No. 9, \$324.50; No. 11, \$350.50; No. 12, \$424.50; and No. 13, \$355.50.

There is \$100 available which, according to the donor, is to be distributed between the two opportunities which are the farthest behind at the close of the appeal.

#### Office Open Tomorrow.

The office of the Associated Charities at 923 H street northwest will be open on Christmas morning up to noon to receive contributions for the opportunities, and any mail that may bring gifts for the remaining ten families to be cared for. It is earnestly hoped that many who have not yet responded will write a check today and mail it so that it may be received at the office tomorrow morning.

An effort will be made to report the total receipts up to the last minute before going to press Monday afternoon.

Contributions may be sent to the Associated Charities, John Joy Edson, 923 H street northwest, or will be received at the office of the Star. The workers of the Associated Charities in their desire to see the fourteen Christmas Opportunities fully subscribed have not overlooked other equally meritorious families. In fact, they have been busy acting as almoners for numerous clubs and groups of people who have wanted to extend help to the form of useful presents, supplying families with things which would ordinarily be regarded as necessities, but which look like absolute luxuries to those who have accustomed themselves to go without.

#### Sends Cash and Toys.

A business man, well known among his friends for his generous giving, although he always wishes his name withheld, has sent \$125 to be used for Christmas gifts. Many of the gifts for needy families will be in the form of three huge boxes of toys, dolls and games, for the boys, dolls for the girls, besides games, mouth organs, accordions, dishes and other things that make glad the heart of children.

Other useful presents have been sent by various groups, and others have rendered valuable volunteer service in preparing the gifts for Christmas delivery. The Sunday school of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church has given furniture to a home where the parents are dead and the grandmother is trying to keep the children together, also two quilts of milk a day to another family for at least a month.

The government workers in L-M building are furnishing bedding and household linen to one family and \$45 to be distributed among ten old ladies and one old man. A girls' club at Western High School has helped in tying up toys and has also contributed money. The Junior department of Foundry M. E. Church is giving clothing, toys, money and milk to fourteen children between the ages of nine and twelve.

The pupils of the Chevy Chase School are giving money and clothing through the Associated Charities. The Business Woman's Council has given cash to be spent by a family for its own Christmas dinner. Troop 70 of the Boy Scouts is giving an all-the-year-around Christmas by contributing \$2.50.

#### (Continued on Page 3, Column 4.)

## French Peasants Gaze in Awe at 'Star of Mystery'

#### By the Associated Press.

ANGERS, France, December 23.—The superstitious peasants in this district, who are preparing to celebrate Christmas, are mystified by a huge bright light which has appeared in the heavens for the past two days, and are asking: "Is this a new star of Bethlehem?"

The light has a varying appearance, now like a luminous star, and again like a small crescent of the moon. The official meteorological services are puzzled and thus far have been unable to explain its prolonged presence, though attributing it to a meteor swarm.

The light was first seen Thursday morning, gleaming feebly eighteen degrees above the horizon. On Friday it was higher up and more pronounced, moving at an angular rapidity of one-twenty-fifth of one degree.

The whole countryside watches for its daily reappearance and is wondering what special significance attaches to the light.

## YULETIDE SPIRIT PERVADES CITY ON EVE OF CHRISTMAS

### Streets Thronged With Late Shoppers—Holiday Program Will Start Today.

Downtown streets took on carnival appearance last night, when "eleventh-hour" shoppers, besieged the stores that remained open, hurrying from place to place amid a general gaiety that reminded of nothing so much as inauguration.

Last-minute scenes were enacted at Center market, along Pennsylvania avenue, F street, 15th and 16th streets, and elsewhere where one had anything to sell that looked at all like a Christmas present.

Union station and the Washington city post office both presented the appearance of human beehives, the holiday traffic in both human beings and parcel post being at high tide last night.

#### Postal Employees Busy.

While scores of persons entered and came out of the terminal, mail trains continued to arrive with their loads of parcels. The latter were swiftly borne into the post office and sorted to trucks, all ready for delivery today.

Postmaster Chance and his assistants stayed on the scene until a late hour last night, while hundreds of men on the post office night shift labored through the wee small hours to make sure that all the people of the National Capital would get every parcel that it is humanly possible to deliver. Parcel post will be delivered all day today, and all day tomorrow, while there will be one delivery of letter mail tomorrow.

Walter Reed Hospital and other institutions are making every preparation for the greatest Yuletide festivities in their existence.

#### President Sends Greetings.

Look at this Christmas dinner menu to be handed the Walter Reed patients at the main mess tomorrow: Bouillon, celery hearts, olives, mixed sweet pickles, roast turkey, sage dressing, giblet gravy, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, buttered peas, cauliflower au gratin, Waldorf salad, ice cream, cakes, mince pie, cheese and crackers, assorted fruits, mixed candies, raisins, nuts and coffee.

President Harding's Christmas greeting to the patients will be conveyed at the dinner. Writing to Miss Wales of the institution, the President said:

"I will appreciate it if you will convey to the patients in the hospital my holiday greetings for the year 1922. I hope the season may be marked by every opportunity of happiness and satisfaction which may come to them and by multiplied testimonies of the continuing gratitude of the nation they have served so well."

Christmas carols will be sung in the wards this morning and throughout the day there will be a round of activities, with open house at the Y. M. C. A. and Knights of Columbus huts. There will be a midnight mass at the latter place.

Christmas day will see entertainments at the various houses, including the Red Cross House. The festivities will be continued more or less all week.

#### Trinity Community Plans.

Activities at Trinity Community House are to be increased in volume and intensity during the Christmas holidays. On Christmas morning at 11 o'clock 500 of the community children are to be the guests of Harry Crandall and Mrs. Harriet Locker at Crandall's Theater, where a program of movies, cards and presents will be the order of the day.

Perhaps one of the most interesting of the activities will occur on Christmas—(Continued on Page 3, Column 2.)

## GREEKS DENY COUNTER REVOLUTION IN ATHENS

### Reports of New Uprising Are Laid to Constantinian Sympathizers.

#### LONDON, December 22.—

The Greek legation denied reports today that Athens is on the verge of a counter revolution, attributing them to "an anti-patriotic attempt by a handful of Constantinianists to discredit the revolution abroad."

The legation said there is complete calm throughout the kingdom.

## DISCARD FORCED SCHOOL ECONOMY, PLEA TO CONGRESS

### Citizens' Committee Urges Progressive Program on Subcommittee.

### "CONDITIONS STUNT COMING GENERATION"

### Brief Argues Strenuously for Advance Purchase of Sites for Expansion.

A comprehensive brief, containing a vigorous plea for reinserting in the school budget for the next fiscal year the items knifed by the Commissioners and the bureau of the budget, was submitted to the House subcommittee on appropriations yesterday afternoon by the citizens' school committee of five. The House committee recently flatly denied the school board an oral hearing, but promised to give most careful and sympathetic consideration to its written argument.

In calling the committee's attention to the necessity of curing the evils that exist in the school system, the brief takes cognizance of the "forced economy" under which the government is operating, and the Congress should not be considered in the present contingency, so serious has it become.

#### Congestion Is Condemned.

Portables, congested and part-time classes in the elementary schools and "twilight sessions" in the high schools, due to the double shifts, were vigorously condemned in the brief. Such conditions, it declared, are stunting the whole intellectual and moral life of the rising generation.

The portables were described as "the fruitful parent of colds, grippe and influenza," conditions "which would hardly be tolerated in the most remote, backward and impoverished country district before the days of hygienic science." The part time classes were branded as robbers of education, and the congested classes as "a drain upon the physical and intellectual resources of pupils and teacher."

#### Urges Purchase of Sites.

The brief argues strenuously for the purchase in advance of requirements of school sites, pointing out that such procedure will effect a great saving to taxpayers and the government itself. It was signed by Henry H. classic, chairman; Dr. Milton Falkner, Mrs. Charles Scott, Hatter, Ira H. Butler and U. J. Daniels, committee appointed to represent the civic bodies of the District in a concerted campaign for betterment of public educational conditions.

#### Brief in Full.

The question which we want the subcommittee to ask itself is this: What will the appropriations in the budget do toward removing the existing school shortages?

Whether such a shortage exists is a question of fact. And the fact is indisputable.

We are not concerned primarily with the origin of the shortage or with the question who, if anybody, is responsible for it. That it exists, all men are agreed. It is not an isolated phenomenon. There has existed also a general housing shortage, the evil consequences of which Congress has recognized in regulatory statutes which go to the very verge of its constitutional powers. The school housing shortage is a greater evil. And it is even more acute. The general housing shortage was due mainly to diversion of economic resources to the pressing necessities of war. The school housing shortage began further back. It is the result of a slow, gradual and long accumulation. But it has been intensified by conditions during and following the war.

For practical purposes, therefore, it is unnecessary to go back beyond the close of the war period.

#### Shortage in November, 1920.

On November 1, 1920, there was an accumulated shortage of 183 classrooms. This may be termed a sheer shortage; that is, an absolute incapacity to respond to a constant, increasing demand. The conditions of 1921-22 brought this shortage up to 207. To meet it there were opened in 1920-21 and 1921-22 a total of 48 new classrooms. The school year 1921-22, therefore, ended with an accumulated shortage of 159 classrooms. The increase in enrollment for 1922-23 has created an immediate demand for 25 more classrooms.

At the end of 1922-23 there would have been an actual shortage of 184 classrooms as against the shortage of 183 classrooms in 1920. In other words, the situation would have been left unchanged. In the meantime Congress had acted. The deficiency appropriation of 1921 made provision for approximately fifty-two classrooms, which have now become available. But a sheer shortage of 132 classrooms has started under so heavy a handicap, supply has never been able to catch up with the constantly accelerating demand.

#### Short 150 Classrooms.

So far the figures relate to what may be termed an absolute shortage—sheer incapacity to meet a growing demand. But it must be remembered that 150 classrooms in grades one and two are worked in double shift. That is, one teacher conducts a class in the mornings, a second conducts an

(Continued on Page 14, Column 2.)